

**Draft  
Environmental Assessment**

**Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park  
Amended Host Site Improvement  
Project**



**March 2015**



**Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park  
Amended Host Site Improvement Project  
Draft Environmental Assessment  
MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST**

**BACKGROUND**

In 2014, Montana State Parks (MSP) proposed to improve the host site area at Eden Bridge at the northern portion of Smith River State Park by constructing two gravel pads for recreational vehicle parking, constructing gravel picnic areas adjacent to each gravel pad; installing two underground potable water cisterns, installing two underground septic tanks, constructing one septic drain field, relocating the existing phone and electric pedestal adjacent to each of the two host pads, relocating the existing storage shed to a new location behind the existing vault toilets, and relocating the entrance road to a safer location approximately 100' west of the current entrance.

Since the approval of these improvements in November 2014, MSP has reconsidered the installation of the potable water cisterns and believe a more suitable option is the drilling of a well. Because a well and its associated well pump and water lines were not considered in the original environmental analysis, this new analysis document was required.

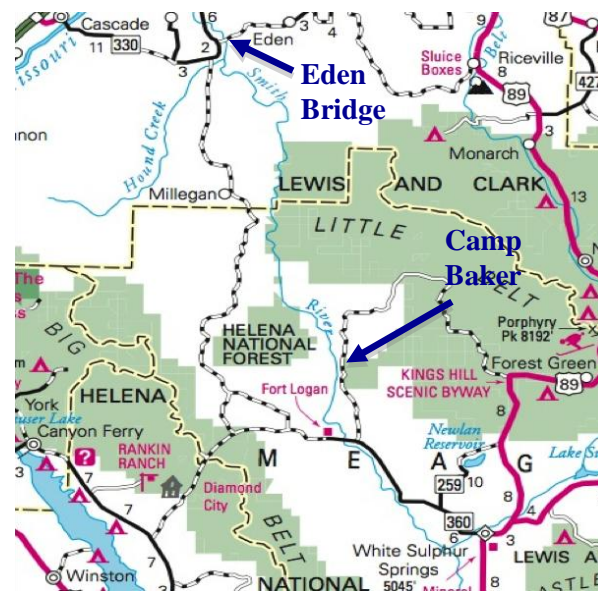
**PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

- 1. Type of proposed state action:**  
MSP, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), proposes to drill a well in order to provide a potable source of water for the seasonal volunteers at the Eden Bridge host sites.
- 2. Agency authority for the proposed action:**  
The 1939 Montana State Legislature passed MCA 23-1-101, which states that a State Park System would be established “for the purpose of conserving the scenic, historic, archeological, scientific and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment, thereby contributing to the cultural, recreational and economic life of the people and their health.” Montana statute 23-1-102 (4) gives MFWP “jurisdiction, custody and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public camping grounds, historical sites and monuments.”
- 3. Name of Project:**  
Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park Proposed Amended Host Site Improvement Project
- 4. Project Sponsor:**  
Montana State Parks, Region 4  
4600 Giant Springs Road  
Great Falls, Montana 59405
- 5. Anticipated Schedule:**  
Estimated Public Comment Period: March 2015 - Mid April 2015  
Estimated Decision Notice: April 2015  
Estimated Commencement Date: Spring 2015  
Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2015  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 90%

6. **Location affected by proposed action:**

Eden Bridge is located in the northern portion of the Smith River State Park along the Smith River, approximately 17 miles southeast of Ulm, Montana on Highway 330 in Cascade County, Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 3 East (Figures 1 and 2).

**Figure 1. Smith River and Smith River State Park**



**Figure 2. Eden Bridge Topographic Map**



7. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/ Woodlands/Recreation	<u>.5</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas	<u>0</u>	Forestry	<u>0</u>
		Rangeland	<u>0</u>
		Other	<u>0</u>

8. **Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.**

- (a) **Permits:**  
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality      Sanitary Restrictions & Subdivision  
MT Dept. of Natural Resource      Groundwater Development, form 602  
Cascade County      County Sanitarian & County  
   Approach Permit
- (b) **Funding:**  
Montana State Parks 2011 Bed Tax      \$20,000
- (c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**  
State Historic Preservation Office      Cultural and Historic Resources

9. **Narrative summary of the proposed action:**

The nationally known Smith River offers a unique experience for visitors from all across Montana and the United States; with its striking scenery along the 59-mile float. The 121-mile Smith River begins near White Sulfur Springs, Montana where the North and South forks of the Smith River merge. For much of its course, the main stem of the Smith River runs through a broad valley between the Big Belt Mountains on the west and the Little Belt and Castle Mountains on the east.

The river is accessible only by non-motorized watercraft, including rafts, canoes, kayaks, and drift boats. The Smith River State Park and River Corridor has one public put-in point (Camp Baker) and one take-out point (Eden Bridge) for the entire 59-mile stretch. During the peak float season of April through July, as many as 100 floaters per day launch watercraft at Camp Baker and take-out at Eden Bridge. Approximately 5,000 people per year float the Smith River and complete their multi-day float trip at the Eden Bridge take-out.

Volunteer hosts have served as caretakers of the take-out site at Eden Bridge since the early 1990's. The host sites currently consist of one phone pedestal and one shared power box for the two sets of volunteers. Beginning in 2013, two 450 gallon above ground water tanks were installed adjacent to each RV to provide potable water.

**Proposed Action:**

MSP proposes to drill at least a twenty-five foot deep well in order to provide a potable source of water for the seasonal volunteers at the Eden Bridge host sites.

The well would be drilled approximately 30 feet right of the new entrance road and at least 10 feet away from the existing boundary fence. The ground around the well would be mounded to allow for drainage away from the well head and a sanitary locking cap would be used. The existing storage shed would be relocated in between the two host sites to accommodate the necessary power panels, pressure tank, and pressure switch for the water lines. The shed's existing concrete slab would be removed and a new steel-reinforced 6 inch slab would be poured at the site of the new location. See Appendix A for the revised site plan.

Reasons for switching from cisterns to well -

- 1) Reduction of long term maintenance costs associated with cisterns. This would include eliminating the need for a certified water hauler to fill the tanks. Other maintenance costs that would be reduced would include routine cleaning of the cisterns which would require confined space entry procedures and personal protection equipment. Additional duties would be assigned to the Eden Bridge hosts if cisterns were used. The host would need to be vigilant about checking the cistern's water levels to ensure a minimal water level is maintained to protect the pump from burning out.
- 2) A well would be a constant water source with minimal maintenance.
- 3) The well would have a pressure tank and pressure switch that would allow for automatic on/off when the pressure reaches a certain level. This would prevent the pump from being damaged and allow the hosts to utilize a frost free hydrant once and water would be available at the opening of the tap.
- 4) Having the well may be a benefit for future unforeseen purposes (e.g. wildfire suppression).

**10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:**

**Alternative A: No Action**

The current host site area would be improved with the installation of two underground water cistern as original described in the September 2014 environmental assessment (EA). The installation of the cisterns would provide the Eden Bridge hosts with a reliable potable water supply during the summer visitor season.

Seasonal hosts would be required to monitor cistern water levels to ensure water pumps are kept submerged and protected from overheating. MSP would arrange deliveries of water to Eden Bridge as needed.

The cisterns would be filled seasonally and maintained by certified contractors. The estimated annual cost for these services is \$150. This estimate does not include replacement water pump costs if the pump fails due to lack of vigilance by the hosts.

No new impacts to existing resources are anticipated if the no action is selected. Environmental impacts for the installation of the cisterns were analyzed in the 2014 Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park Host Site Improvement Project EA.

**Alternative B: Proposed Action**

MSP proposes to drill a well in order to provide a potable source of water for the seasonal volunteers at the Eden Bridge host sites.

**11. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**

MSP would employ FWP Best Management Practices, which are designed to reduce or eliminate sediment delivery to waterways during construction. MSP would develop the final design and

specifications for the Proposed Action. All permits listed in Part I 8(a) above would be obtained by MSP as required. A private contractor selected through the State's contracting processes would complete the construction.

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

### Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

#### A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?			X		Yes	1a
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	1b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X			Yes	1d
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				

1a/b. The proposed drilling of a well for potable water may affect localized geological substructure, however FWP does not believe the drilling activities would negatively impact soil stabilities. Minimal soils would be extracted by drilling the well and any extracted soils would be used on site for leveling near the well and new concrete pad. Disturbed surface areas would be reseeded with native grasses after the drilling activities, trenching of new water lines, and relocation of the shed is completed to reduce new erosion patterns to be established.

1d. Minor amounts of sediment potentially could enter the river during construction activities, but FWP believes it is unlikely because the location of the proposed action is 50 yards from the river's shoreline.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X		Yes	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regulations?		N/A				

2a. Dust and diesel exhaust would be generated during excavation and construction activities. However, this would only occur for a short period and likely not negatively impact the overall ambient air quality of the site. The persons most likely to be impacted by these disturbances would be the site hosts who may be present during the construction effort. The nearest neighbors are located approximately ¼ mile to the northeast and ¼ mile to the northwest and should not be affected.

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		Yes	See 1 a/b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?			X			3g
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X		Yes	3h
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				3i
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		N/A				
m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		N/A				

- 3g. Localized groundwater would decrease slightly since the pump would extract an estimated 100 gallons per day for each host between April and August. This level of usage is not expected to negatively impact the aquifer because of its close proximity to the Smith River. Furthermore, no secondary impacts from the installation of a well are expected to the river.
- 3h. The risk of contamination to the groundwater would be minimize by the use of a lock sanitary cap on top of the well. MSP staff would be responsible to ensure the cap is locked at all times.
- 3i. The design of the well would be exempt from the filing of a water right under current Montana Department of Natural Resource's regulations because the well pump would not exceed 30 gallons per minute. The proposed new well would not affect any existing water rights for the Smith River.



4. <b>VEGETATION</b>  Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X			Yes	4b
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e
f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		N/A				

- 4b. The proposed drilling and relocation of the storage shed and associated movement of heavy equipment would have minor localized negative impact on surface vegetation. The proposed project location has have been disturbed in the past by heavy public recreational use. The new concrete slab for the storage shed, approximately 8 x 12 feet, would be disturb approximately 100 square feet of dry land grasses. Additional areas of dry land grasses would be displaced or disturbed for the drilling of the well and the trenching of the new waterlines. The proposed waterlines would be 6 feet below the surface. After the completion of the construction activities, all disturbed areas would be reseeded with a native grass seed mix to reestablish groundcover vegetation and reduce the potential of noxious weeds becoming established.
- 4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MNHP) species of concern database found no vascular or non-vascular plants within the boundaries of Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park.
- 4e. Leafy spurge, houndstongue, and spotted knapweed are common noxious weeds found at Eden Bridge. Soils disturbed during construction could become colonized with these weeds. Areas disturbed by construction activities would be reseeded with a native reclamation seed mix where necessary to reduce the establishment of weeds. In conjunction with the Cascade County Weed District, MSP would continue implementing the Statewide Integrated Weed Management Plan using chemical, biological, and mechanical methods to control weeds on the property. Weed management would include the establishment of native vegetation to prevent the spread of weeds. Vehicles would be restricted to the parking areas and access roads, which would be maintained as weed-free, and vehicles would not be allowed on undisturbed areas of the site to minimize the spread of noxious weeds.

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		N/A				
i. For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		N/A				

No impacts are expected to wildlife. The proposed project site is not considered critical habitat for any fish or wildlife species. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database revealed no species of special concern or threatened/endangered species in the vicinity of Eden Bridge – Smith River State Park.

## B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X			6b
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				

6a/b. There would be temporary increases in noise levels caused by heavy equipment during the construction phase. However, construction would occur during early spring months when no floaters are present and very few non-floaters are visiting the site. The site hosts may be present during the construction phase and efforts would be taken minimize inconveniences to them. The closest neighbors are located ¼ mile to the northeast and ¼ mile to the northwest and should hear little or no noise during construction. Noise levels would return to preexisting levels following construction.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				

The proposed project would have no impacts to current land used of the site.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		N/A				

<b>9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				

No impacts are anticipated to community resources if a well was installed at the Eden Bridge host site.

<b>10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X			10c
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X			10d
e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
f. Define projected maintenance costs.			X			10f

10c. The proposed new well would require the connection of a new electric water pump to ensure water pressure to the host pads. Electricity already exists at the host site area, so minimal new electrical improvements are required for the connection.

10d. There would a minor increase in the use of electricity resulting from the operation of a high-pressure water pump to deliver water through the proposed new waterlines to the host pads during the summer.

10f. Annual maintenance costs for the well and associated components are anticipated to be approximately \$150 per year.

<b>11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)		X				11c
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		N/A				

The relocation of the existing storage shed and the top of the well are not expected to measureable change the overall appearance of the Eden Bridge host site area. The shed has been part of the site for many years and only 24 inches of the top of the well would be visible.

11c. The tourism report was submitted to the Montana Department of Commerce for review and comment. At the time of publication of this draft EA, a response from them was not received. A reviewed and signed report will be included with the Decision Notice for this EA.

<b>12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance.		N/A				

In accordance with the Montana Antiquities Act (22-3-421 to 22-3-442) and with FWPs ARM rules (12.8.501 to 12.8.10), a heritage resource survey was conducted by Sara Scott, Parks Division Heritage Resources Program Specialist, in 1999 for previous improvements within the current project area. No sites were identified within the area but an archaeological site with tipi rings (24CA0127) was identified outside the project boundary. The current project area is heavily disturbed by previous improvements and heavy recreational use. Based results of the previous survey and to past ground disturbing impacts to the area, no further cultural resource work is required.

If previously undetected archaeological sites are uncovered during project construction, in accordance with MCA 22-3-435, the State Historic Preservation Office will be contacted and steps will be taken to ensure the preservation of the archaeological site until a professional archaeologist can evaluate it.

## SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>  Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		N/A				
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		N/A				See pg 3

During construction of the proposed project, minor and temporary impacts to the physical environment are anticipated, but they are expected to be short-term and can be mitigated for through design. The proposed action would have no negative or positive cumulative effects on the biological, physical, and human environments.

### **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

During construction of the proposed project, there will be minor and temporary impacts to the physical environment, but the impacts would be short-term and the changes would improve the host site volunteers' experience with a convenient and reliable source of potable water and improve the chances of MSP to attract volunteer hosts each year.

The minor impacts to the environment that were identified in the previous section are small in scale, can be mitigated for, and would not influence the overall environment of the immediate area. The natural environment would continue to provide habitat to transient and permanent wildlife species and would be open to the public for river access.

This analysis did not reveal any secondary or cumulative impacts to resources.

### **PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

#### **1. Public involvement:**

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: *Great Falls Tribune*, *Helena Independent Record*.
- One regional press release;
- Public notice on the Montana State Parks web page: [www.stateparks.mt.gov](http://www.stateparks.mt.gov)

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project. A copy of this EA will be posted on the Montana State Parks webpage [www.stateparks.mt.gov](http://www.stateparks.mt.gov) (Public Notices).

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

#### **2. Duration of comment period:**

The public comment period will extend for (21) twenty-one days. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. April 6, 2015 and can be mailed or emailed to the address below:

Eden Bridge Host Site Improvement Comments  
C/o Colin Maas, Park Manager, Smith River State Park  
4600 Giant Springs Rd  
Great Falls, MT 59405

Or emailed through the website [www.stateparks.mt.gov](http://www.stateparks.mt.gov) – click on “Public Notices”.

### **PART V. EA PREPARATION**

#### **1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No**

This environmental review revealed no significant negative or positive impacts due to the proposed action, therefore an EIS is not necessary and an EA is the appropriate level of analysis.

#### **2. Persons responsible for preparing the EA:**

Colin Maas, Smith River State Park Manager, Great Falls MT  
Rebecca Cooper, FWP MEPA Coordinator, Helena MT

**3. List of agencies or offices consulted during preparation of the original and amended EAs:**

Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Design and Construction Unit

Fisheries Division

Parks Division

Heritage Resource Program

Operations Bureau

Wildlife Division

Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

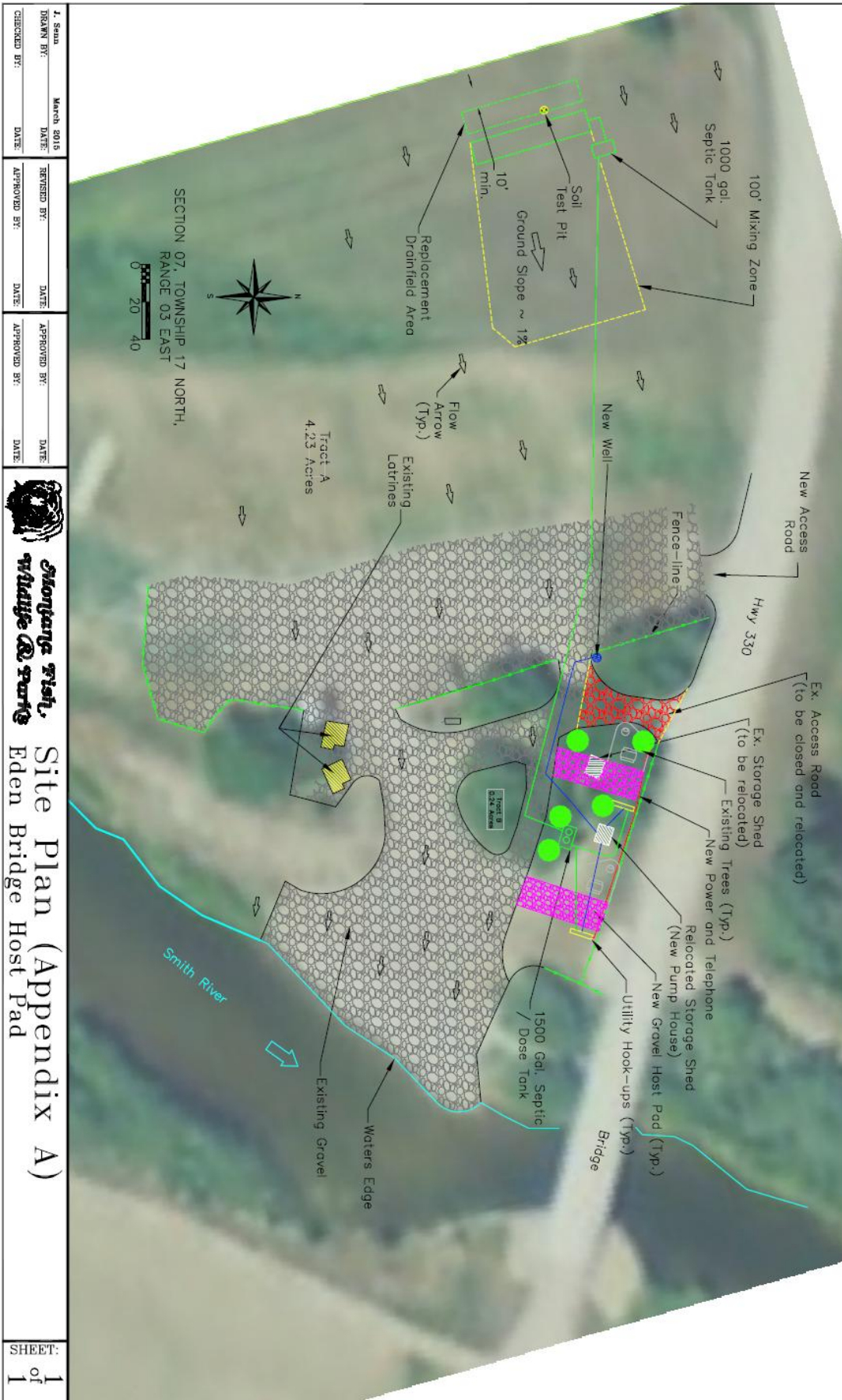
**APPENDICES**

A. Revised Eden Bridge Site Plan

B. MCA 23-1-110 Project Qualification Checklist



# APPENDIX A



SHEET: 1 of 1

**APPENDIX B**  
23-1-110 MCA  
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

**Date:** March 9, 2015

**Person Reviewing:** Colin Maas

**Project Location:** Eden Bridge is located in the northern portion of the Smith River State Park along the Smith River, approximately 17 miles southeast of Uln, Montana on Highway 330 in Cascade County, Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 3 East.

**Description of Proposed Work:** Installation of water well and relocation of storage shed.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check ☐ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- [ ] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?  
Comments:
- [ ] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?  
Comments:
- [ X ] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater? *Potentially, yes*  
Comments: *Drilling for a twenty-five foot deep well and excavation of a six foot deep trench for water lines to two host pads.*
- [ ] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?  
Comments:
- [ ] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?  
Comments:
- [ ] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?  
Comments:
- [ ] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?  
Comments:
- [ ] H. Any new above ground utility lines?  
Comments:
- [ ] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?  
Comments:
- [ ] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?  
Comments:

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.